

The Hun Speaks

1914

"NOT against our will were we thrown into this gigantic adventure. We willed it."—Maximilian Harden, in "Die Zukunft," August.

"In this state the German people are to tower high above the other nationalities; it is to be a German state, no washed out universality. . . . The will to conquer the world . . . must be insatiable."—Adolf Grabowsky, in "The New Germany," September 30.

"We shall know how to hold for all time the territories that have been manured (gedung) with German blood."—Bassermann, National Liberal leader, in the Reichstag, December 5.

"One-third of the male population will be shot."—Notice posted in Hasselt, Belgium, August 17.

"No more prisoners are to be taken. All are to be put to death."—Order of the Day, issued by General Stenger, Commander of the 58th Brigade, August 26.

"With clear conscience and clean hands we grasp the sword." . . . All parties have attacked me in times of peace. . . . We shall fight out the struggle, even against a world of enemies."—Kaiser Wilhelm, August 4 (from the throne); August 2 (from castle window); proclamation to the nation.

"Under all circumstances, the enemy will be beaten."—Kaiser Wilhelm to the Brandenburg Regiment.

"Just for a scrap of paper Great Britain was going to make war."—Von Bethmann-Hollweg, German Chancellor, to Sir Edward Goschen, British Ambassador in Berlin, August 4.

"I can't do otherwise."—Kaiser Wilhelm, weeping, as he signed the declaration of war, July.

"My heart bleeds for Louvain."—Kaiser Wilhelm to W. W., September 8.

"I will not surrender. My ship will be the coffin for me and my crew."—Captain Schoenburg, of the Nurnberg, off Honolulu, September 1.

"Take Paris or die."—Kaiser Wilhelm to his troops, August.

"The war with Russia is now chiefly a question of whose nerves will snap first."—Von Hindenburg, November 18.

1915

"The greater Germany which some day must dominate all Europe."—Kaiser Wilhelm, proclamation, June.

"The German conquest gave Belgium all that it could hope for—a decent form of death."—Professor Conrad Bornhak, in the "Groenboten," June 30.

"Let us conclude no peace except . . . a peace made in Germany."—Dr. Beumer, National Liberal member of the Prussian Diet; address to the Bremen Chamber of Commerce, October 3.

"Thus one monstrosity begets another."—Memorial of the German Peace Society, submitted to the Reichstag, December 1.

1916

"To reduce the misery . . . the inhabitants will be deported."—Proclamation of the military commander, Lille, France, April.

"We will obtain for ourselves real guarantees. There can be no status quo ante."—Chancellor von Bethmann-Hollweg, speech in the Reichstag, April 5.

1917

"I beg that the small steamers . . . be spared if possible, or else sunk without a trace being left."—Count Luxburg, German Charge d'Affaires at Buenos Ayres, to the Berlin Foreign Office, May 19.

"As regards Argentine steamers, I recommend either compelling them to turn back, sinking them without leaving any traces, or letting them through."—Luxburg, Ibid, July 9.

"If neutrals were destroyed so that they disappeared without leaving any trace, terror would soon keep seamen and travellers away from the danger zones."—Professor Oswald Flamm, in the Berlin "Woche," cited in "The New York Times" May 15.

"We propose an alliance with Mexico."—Zimmermann, German Secretary of Foreign Affairs, secret dispatch to Von Eckhardt, German Minister in Mexico, January 19.

"A league of nations is on the way. Shall Germany freeze without?"—Maximilian Harden, in "Die Zukunft," April 15.

"The German sword will regain us the respect of all the world. In France the detestable word 'Boche' is getting ever rarer. Just wait! Things will become different. The sword makes us respected."—Kaiser Wilhelm, October 25.

1918

"The prize of victory must not and will not fail us. No soft peace, but one which corresponds with German interests."—Kaiser Wilhelm, to the Schleswig-Holstein Provincial Council, March 20.

"By next April 1 I shall be in Paris."—Von Hindenburg, to thirty newspaper editors, February 1.

"The army's task is to continue the struggle. . . . Only by this means do we help break the enemy's will to destruction."—Von Hindenburg, proclamation to the German army in the field, September 18.

"It may be for the good of Germany."—Kaiser Wilhelm, shivering, as he signed his abdication, November.

1919

"No act of violence can touch the honor of the German people. . . . Yielding to superior force . . . the government declares that it is ready to accept and sign the peace conditions imposed."—Foreign Minister Haniel von Haimhausen, to the Peace Conference.

How Kultur's Empire Has Shrunk in One Crowded Year



In the spring of 1918 Germany seemed to have very nearly accomplished the objects for which she made war. Belgium was overrun, giving Germany a North Sea outlet commanding the English Channel; France was an industrial cripple and reduced to a third rate power; Mitteleuropa was established; the Berlin-to-Bagdad Railway was a fact; Russia was a German vassal; German power stretched from the North Sea to the Indian Ocean, dominating the great trade routes to the East and cutting the British Empire in two.



By the treaty of 1919 Germany loses all her colonies, one-eighth of her European territory and one-fifth of her population. She must give up all her conquered territory and pay for the damage she has done. The Berlin-to-Bagdad railway has ceased to exist. Mitteleuropa is broken into new states, bulwarks against German militarism. From one of the great powers she has become a small state.

The Allies Speak

1914

"DIE rather than retreat."—Marshal Joffre, to his troops at the Marne.

"For twenty-five years William II has made Europe live under the weight of a terrible nightmare. . . . He is another Nero; but Rome in flames is not sufficient for him—he demands the destruction of the universe."—Clemenceau, August 13.

"I have been ordered to defend Paris against the invader. This order I will fulfill to the end."—General Gallieni, Military Governor of Paris, proclamation, September 3.

"Endure! Fight! The nation that does not retreat before suffering is bound to conquer."—Poincaré, proclamation, September 3.

"Never mind whether they know anything about drill. . . . Teach them to shoot, and do it quickly."—Lord Kitchener, to the officers of his Second Army, September 2.

"The time has come to attack."—General Joffre, September 7.

1915

"There is one beautiful lesson on which we all can meditate. In spite of many weaknesses in high places, our great and good people, by their will, their heart and their blood, will have remade France—the France of humanity."—Georges Clemenceau in "L'Homme Enchaîné," March 26.

"When will this war end?" said some one to Abraham Lincoln, and he answered: "We accepted this war for an object, a worthy object, and the war will end when it is attained."—Lloyd George, at a London press banquet, May 8.

"We have it in our power by our exertions to carry this war to a successful and decisive conclusion, but we have it in our power to do so only if we exert our strength to the very limit of human and national capacity."—Winston Churchill in speech before Enfield munition workers September 17.

1916

"They shall not pass."—General Petain, at Verdun.

"All those who believe that our cause is the cause of civilization may rest assured that this army has no thought except to go on delivering blow after blow until we have won that victory by force of arms which will insure an enduring peace."—Sir Douglas Haig, commander in chief of British armies, to an American correspondent on July 31.

1917

"We can start at once. We made preparations on the way."—Commander Joseph K. Taussig, U. S. N., for the American Navy, in reply to the British Admiral's query, "When will you be ready?" (Formerly erroneously attributed to Admiral Sims.)

"Lafayette, we are here."—Colonel Stanton, at Lafayette's tomb. (Once attributed to General Pershing, who was present on the occasion.)

"The world must be made safe for democracy."—Woodrow Wilson, address in Congress, April 2.

"The right is more precious than peace."—Ibid.

"It is not an army that we must shape and train for war; it is a nation."—Woodrow Wilson, May 12, at dedication of Red Cross Building.

"The day has come to conquer or submit."—Woodrow Wilson, message to Russia, May 26.

"For us there is but one choice. We have made it."—Woodrow Wilson, Flag Day address, June 14.

"The German is the discipline of fear; ours is the discipline of faith—and faith will triumph."—General Joffre, at unveiling of Lafayette statue in Brooklyn.

"But these, sir, are Americans."—Pershing to Foch, in reply to Foch's suggestion that the first of the United States troops were a paper army.

1918

"It is impossible to exaggerate the importance of getting reinforcements across the Atlantic in the shortest possible space of time."—Premier Lloyd George to the American people, March.

"There can be but one issue. The settlement must be final. There can be no compromise. No halfway decision is conceivable."—Woodrow Wilson, July 4, Mount Vernon.

"We make war to the end—to the very end of the end."—Clemenceau, message to the American people, September.

"Our victory does not spell revenge."—Clemenceau, speech in the Chamber, October 18.

"Hell, Heaven or Hoboken by Christmas."—General Pershing.

"We regret being unable to follow the counsel of our masters, the French, but the American flag has been compelled to retire. This is unendurable, and none of our soldiers would understand not being asked to do whatever is necessary to re-establish a situation which is humiliating to us and unacceptable to our country's honor. We are going to counter attack."—Various, credited to Major General Bullard and Major General Omar Bundy, in reply to the French commander in the Second Battle of the Marne.

"It had only to come out."—Reply of Admiral Wemyss to protest of German armistice commission that "it is inadmissible that our fleet should be given up without having been beaten." November 15.

1919

"We have waited forty-nine years for this moment."—Clemenceau, April 24.